

✓3 62. The filtering face mask of claim 60, wherein the valve cover and its opening direct exhaled fluid flow downwards when the mask is worn on a person.

63. The filtering face mask of claim 62, wherein the valve cover has fluid-impermeable sidewalls.

E4 66. A filtering face mask that comprises:

(a) a mask body that is adapted to fit over the nose and mouth of a wearer; and
(b) an exhalation valve that is positioned on the mask body substantially opposite to a wearer's mouth when the mask is being worn, the exhalation valve comprising:

(1) a valve seat that comprises:

(i) a seal surface; and

(ii) an orifice that is circumscribed by the seal surface;

(2) a single flexible flap that is secured to the valve seat and that has a non-centrally disposed stationary portion and a free portion and a peripheral edge that includes a stationary segment and a free segment, the stationary segment of the peripheral edge being associated with the non-central stationary portion of the flap so as to remain at rest during an exhalation, and the free segment being associated with the free portion of the flexible flap so as to be lifted away from the seal surface during an exhalation, the free portion also being located below the non-central stationary portion when the filtering face mask is worn on a person, wherein the flexible flap would normally assume a flat configuration when not secured to the valve seat and having no forces applied to it but when secured to the valve seat and viewed without a fluid passing through the orifice, the flexible flap (i) has a curved profile when viewed from a side elevation in its secured position on the valve seat and (ii) is pressed towards the seal surface in an abutting relationship therewith.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 58 and 64.

Please amend claims 33, and 61-63 and 66-67 as follows:

33. A filtering face mask that comprises:

- (a) a mask body that is adapted to fit over the nose and mouth of a wearer; and
- (b) an exhalation valve that is positioned on the mask body substantially opposite to a wearer's mouth when the mask is being worn, the exhalation valve comprising:

(1) a valve seat that comprises:

- (i) a seal surface;
- (ii) an orifice that is circumscribed by the seal surface; and
- (iii) cross members that extend across the orifice to create a plurality of openings within the orifice; and

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(2) a single flexible flap that has a fixed portion and only one free portion and first and second opposing ends, the first end of the single flexible flap being associated with the fixed portion of the flap so as to remain at rest during an exhalation, and the second end being associated with the only one free portion of the flexible flap so as to be lifted away from the seal surface during an exhalation, the second end also being located below the first end when the filtering face mask is worn on a person, wherein the flexible flap would normally assume a flat configuration when not secured to the valve seat and having no forces are applied to it, but the flexible flap when secured to the valve seat at its fixed portion has a curved profile when viewed from a side elevation and is pressed towards the seal surface in an abutting relationship therewith when a fluid is not passing through the orifice.

61. The filtering face mask of claim 60, wherein the opening in the valve cover is approximately parallel to the path traced by the second end of the flexible flap during its opening and closing.

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Please add claims 81-83 to this application:

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~~81.~~ A filtering face mask that comprises:

(a) a substantially cup-shaped mask body that is fluid permeable, contains a layer of filter media, and is adapted to fit over the nose and mouth of a wearer; and

(b) an exhalation valve that is positioned on the mask body substantially opposite to a wearer's mouth when the mask is being worn, the exhalation valve comprising:

(1) a valve seat that comprises:

(i) a seal surface; and

(ii) an orifice that is surrounded by the seal surface when viewing the valve seat from the front;

(2) a single flexible flap that is secured to the valve seat and that has a non-centrally disposed stationary portion and only one free portion and a peripheral edge that includes a free segment, the non-centrally disposed stationary portion of the flap remaining essentially stationary during an exhalation, and the free segment of the peripheral edge being associated with the only one free portion of the flexible flap so as to be lifted away from the seal surface during an exhalation, wherein the flexible flap would normally assume a flat configuration when not secured to the valve seat and having no forces applied to it but when secured to the valve seat and viewed when a fluid is not passing through the orifice, the single flexible flap (i) has a curved profile when viewed from a side elevation in its secured position on the valve seat and (ii) is pressed towards the seal surface in an abutting relationship therewith, under any orientation of the mask.

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~~82.~~ The filtering face mask of claim 33, wherein the shape of the orifice does not wholly correspond to the shape of the seal surface.

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~~83.~~ The filtering face mask of claim 60, wherein the opening in the valve cover is at least the size of the orifice in the valve seat.

67. A filtering face mask that comprises:

- (a) a mask body that is adapted to fit over the nose and mouth of a wearer; and
- (b) an exhalation valve that is positioned on the mask body substantially opposite to a wearer's mouth when the mask is being worn, the exhalation valve comprising:

- (1) a valve seat that comprises:
 - (i) a seal surface; and
 - (ii) an orifice that is surrounded by the seal surface when viewing the valve seat from the front;

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(2) a single flexible flap that is secured to the valve seat and that has a non-centrally disposed stationary portion and only one free portion and a peripheral edge that includes a stationary segment and a free segment, the stationary segment of the peripheral edge being associated with the non-central stationary portion of the flap so as to remain at rest during an exhalation, and the free segment being associated with the only one free portion of the flexible flap so as to be lifted away from the seal surface during an exhalation, the only one free portion also being located below the non-central stationary portion when the filtering face mask is worn on a person, wherein the flexible flap would normally assume a flat configuration when not secured to the valve seat and having no forces applied to it but when secured to the valve seat and viewed without a fluid passing through the orifice, the single flexible flap (i) has a curved profile when viewed from a side elevation in its secured position on the valve seat and (ii) is pressed towards the seal surface in an abutting relationship therewith.